

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows (a marked-up version of the claims is attached as Appendix A):

1. A method of preparing a substantially RNA-free cellular component, comprising culturing cells in a medium, wherein said cells comprise cellular component-producing cells, and lysing said cells to produce a cell lysate, wherein said cell lysate contains said cellular component and RNase with sufficient RNase activity to degrade substantially all of the RNA molecules present in said cell lysate, and isolating said cellular component.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein said cells further comprise RNase-producing cells wherein the RNase is produced by said RNase-producing cells.
6. A method of preparing a substantially RNA-free cellular component, comprising culturing cells producing a cellular component and cells producing an RNase, wherein the cellular component and the RNase are not produced by the same cells, lysing said cells to produce a cell lysate, wherein said cells producing an RNase produce RNase in an amount sufficient to degrade substantially all of the RNA present in said cell lysate, and isolating said cellular component.
36. The method of claim 1 wherein said cellular component-producing cells produce said RNase.

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate receiving notice that claim 6 is allowable if redrafted in independent form. Accordingly, Applicants present claim 6 in independent form herein.

Applicants note that the Examiner has made this office action final stating that Applicants' amendment necessitated the new ground of rejection. However, the newly cited art, Meador *et al.* (1989) *Eur. J. Biochem.* 187:549-553 ("Meador"), is presented as a teaching a method of purifying